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Front Page Edit Page Other Page

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WHY IKE IS CALM ON BERLIN

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Thinks Reds Want 15 Years of Peace

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By Richard Wilson

(The Register's Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—With the Berlin crisis acute and talk of nuclear war, one of America's top intelligence officials has given an opinion on the outlook which goes a long way to explain why President Eisenhower asks the nation not to be hysterical.

It is a fair assumption that his opinion represents a majority view of the president's advisers.

This view is that Russia is not prepared to bring on a nuclear war and wants a 15-year period of peace to develop its economic, military and political strength.

The analysis was submitted to a university group in Columbia, S. C., by Robert Amory, Jr., deputy director for intelligence of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Amory's speech was reported locally in Columbia, S. C., but received little attention elsewhere, much to the surprise of CIA officials.

Reds Not Prepared

Amory is also a member of the planning board of the National Security Council, headed by President Eisenhower. The speech was Amory's first on-the-record talk in four years.

Amory said the Soviets "haven't got what it takes rationally to challenge us this spring."

According to Amory, Russian Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev is not ready to risk a nuclear war over Berlin, but "expects to force us to chicken out."

A year and a half ago, Amory continued, a conclusion was reached in Russia that a major hostilities was imperative to the growth of the nation.

At present, he said, the Russian economy is not mobilized for war or preparing for war, but is being built vertically without an attempt to broaden the base.

"If the West is resolute," Amory said, "then I believe that the Soviet Union, by hook or crook, will be the ones to back down."

Amory conceded the possibility that circumstances might force Russia to go to war, but all his emphasis was on the 15-year period now running its course.

He thought the Russians seek a rate of growth to produce an annual gross national product of 500 billion dollars — greater than the present U. S. level—and consumer standards compared to western Europe, with 100 billion dollars annually to spend

on armaments and external investments.

Perhaps by coincidence, Amory's speech was delivered on Mar. 4, the same day President Eisenhower told a press conference:



Robert Amory Jr.
Says Reds to Back Down

"I don't think we ought to be thinking all the time, every minute, that while we are sitting here, we are going to—we are very apt to get a bombing attack on Washington."

"There is—The reason we have very great and expensive intelligence forces is to keep us informed as well as they possibly can."

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"So, I don't believe we ought to be arguing some points too much, of this kind, because I believe we create more misapprehension than we do understanding."

Not So Portentous

Mr. Eisenhower's statement suggested that he has accepted the kind of intelligence evaluation outlined by Amory.

If this is the case, Mr. Eisenhower's statement last week that nuclear war is not an impossibility seems less portentous than at first seemed to be the case.

The emphasis would be more strongly on his added statement that he could not see how anyone would be "senseless" enough to bring on a nuclear war, since neither side could win.

It is noted here that President Eisenhower does not command the incisiveness and clarity of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in the cold war debate, although he apparently has felt the need to be the national spokesman during Dulles' illness.